

July 10, 2012

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jonna Lou Schafer and I am writing on behalf of myself and my elderly mother, Jane Schafer, regarding proposed changes being considered to the Universal Service Fund (USF) by the FCC. These changes, if implemented, could detrimentally affect our way of life and our quality of life. We live in the rural southwest and communication services are imperative for an aging parent. Our services are provided by Dell Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (DTC) located in Dell City Texas. DTC has solely and consistently provided communication services to our family since 1961.

Dell City is an agricultural community which is the backbone of this nation. DTC provides important and necessary communication services to its rural customers, who in turn provide food, water, gas/oil, military defense and testing, border security and other natural resources for America. Without affordable access to these communication services, all Americans will suffer.

Section 254 (b) (3) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, titled, **Access in Rural and High Cost Areas**, states, in part, that rates will be reasonably comparable to services provided to urban areas. It is judicious that DTC be granted a waiver, removing the cap on the amount of money to be reimbursed per access line annually. If this waiver is not granted it defeats the purpose of the mission of the National Broadband Plan to make "available..... to *all* (my emphasis added) the people of the United States ....a rapid, efficient, nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at *reasonable* (my emphasis added) charges". Also, the Communications Act of 1934, Title II, Section 201 (b) states, "All charges, practices, classifications, and regulations for and in connection with such communication service, shall be just and reasonable, and any such charge, practice, classification, or regulation that is unjust or unreasonable is hereby declared to be unlawful;"

Should the FCC decide to implement its proposed funding changes under the National Broadband Plan, it will effectively end services to most of DTC's customers and subsequently DTC could cease to exist. Not only will it negatively affect us as individuals and the Dell City community, it will affect other rural communities and the nation as a whole. Most DTC customers, and other rural customers, will not be able to afford the basic telephone services that are essential to the education, public health, and/or public safety.

I am asking that you please seriously consider granting a waiver to DTC, so that the company may continue to operate providing much needed, affordable and reliable world-wide communication services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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